



South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

Promoting and Protecting the Health of the Public and the Environment

Bureau of Environmental Health Services

Environmental Affairs



South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

Promoting and Protecting the Health of the Public and the Environment

Bureau of Environmental Health Services

- What we do
 - Regional Offices
 - Programs
 - Environmental Laboratories



Bureau of Environmental Health Services



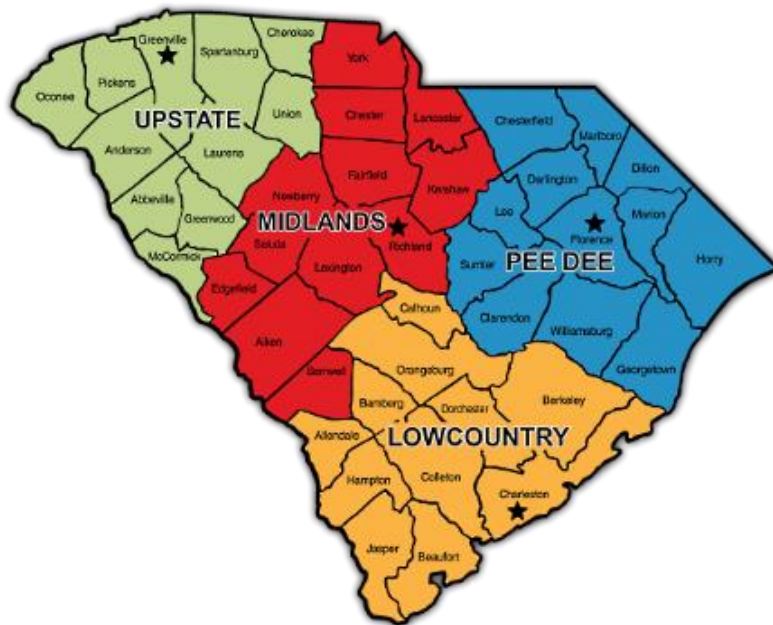
South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

Promoting and Protecting the Health of the Public and the Environment

Bureau of Environmental Health Services

- The Bureau of Environmental Health Services (BEHS) manages and implements the Onsite Wastewater, Rabies Prevention, Food Protection, Dairy and Manufactured Food, Laboratory Certification, and Emergency Response (including Oil, Chemical and Nuclear) programs and manages the Environmental Laboratory
- BEHS regional office staff perform statewide inspections, sampling, monitoring and complaint investigations for the Bureaus of Air Quality, Land and Waste Management and Water

Environmental Regional Offices



- Upstate
 - Anderson, Greenwood, Walhalla
 - Greenville, Spartanburg
- Midlands
 - Columbia, Rock Hill, Lancaster
 - Aiken
- Pee Dee
 - Sumter, Florence
 - Conway, Myrtle Beach
- Lowcountry
 - Charleston
 - Beaufort, Orangeburg



South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

Promoting and Protecting the Health of the Public and the Environment

Environmental Health Services Regional Offices

- Inspect permitted facilities
- Conduct ambient monitoring
- Respond to complaints
- Investigate animal bites
- Provide compliance assistance
- Issue food & septic tank permits
- Monitor shellfish harvesting areas
- Conduct environmental surveillance activities
- Respond to environmental emergencies





Inspection, Monitoring and Complaint Responsibilities

- Air
- Solid Waste
- Hazardous Waste
- Wastewater
- Drinking Water
- Recreational Waters
- Stormwater
- Dams
- Bulk Petroleum Terminals
- Mining & Reclamation
- Underground Tanks
- Shellfish
- Agricultural Wastewater
- Beaches
- Retail Food & Dairy
- Septic Tanks
- Rabies
- Emergency Response



Citizen Complaints

- Thousands of complaints received from the public each year
- Some complaints fall within agency jurisdiction but some do not
- Response is needed for most complaints to determine if they are actionable
- Public expects DHEC to “fix” everything



Citizen Complaint Examples

- Sewage on property
- Grey water
- Sanitary sewer overflow
- Illegally installed septic systems
- Garbage
- Odors
- Public and private pools
- Polluted drinking water
- Bed bugs
- Burning leaves
- Deer processing
- Egg sales / “Polluted” Eggs
- Illegal food vendors
- Leaking USTs
- Algae growth in lakes
- Tire dumps
- Mud on roadways
- Sinkholes
- Junk yards
- Mosquitoes
- Dead birds
- Overgrown yards
- Dog/cat hoarding
- Porta potties
- Feathers on road from trucks
- Meth labs
- Bottled water
- Malfunctioning gas pumps
- Sludge spreading
- Right of way spraying
- Road debris
- Animal bites
- Nuisance wildlife
- Rotten food
- Children living in unsanitary conditions
- Lyme disease
- Chicken houses
- Raw milk consumption



FY 2015 Complaint Summary By Major Category

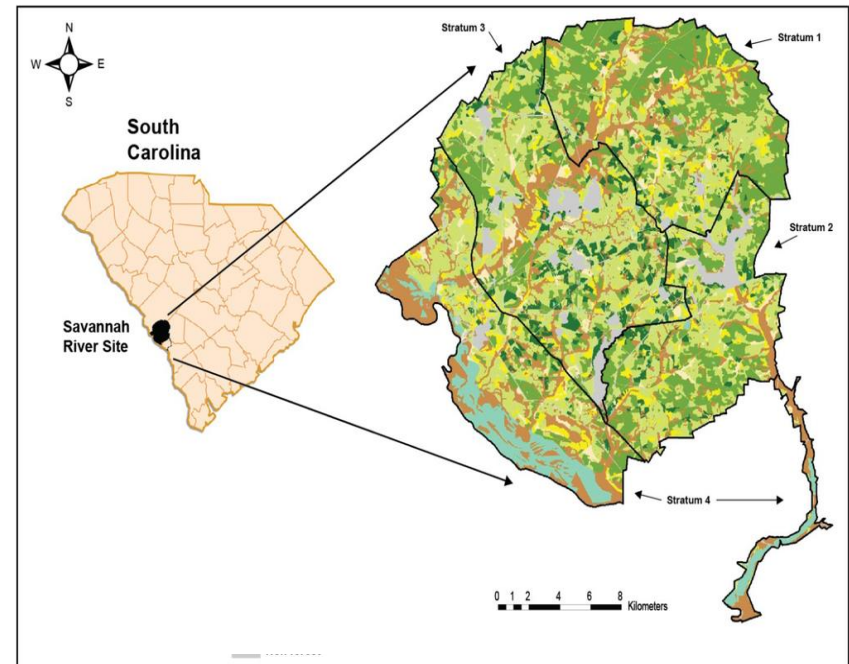
9,567 Citizen Complaints

Air Quality	1,088
Land / Waste	758
Water	2,265
Food	4,006
Onsite Wastewater	1,293
General	157

Environmental Surveillance and Oversight Program (ESOP)

- Supports & compliments DHEC's regulatory programs at Savannah River Site (SRS)
- Evaluates the effectiveness of SRS monitoring activities
- Non regulatory monitoring of surface water, air, groundwater, soil, sediment, vegetation, fish milk, drinking water
- Operates out of Aiken office

Savannah River Site (SRS)

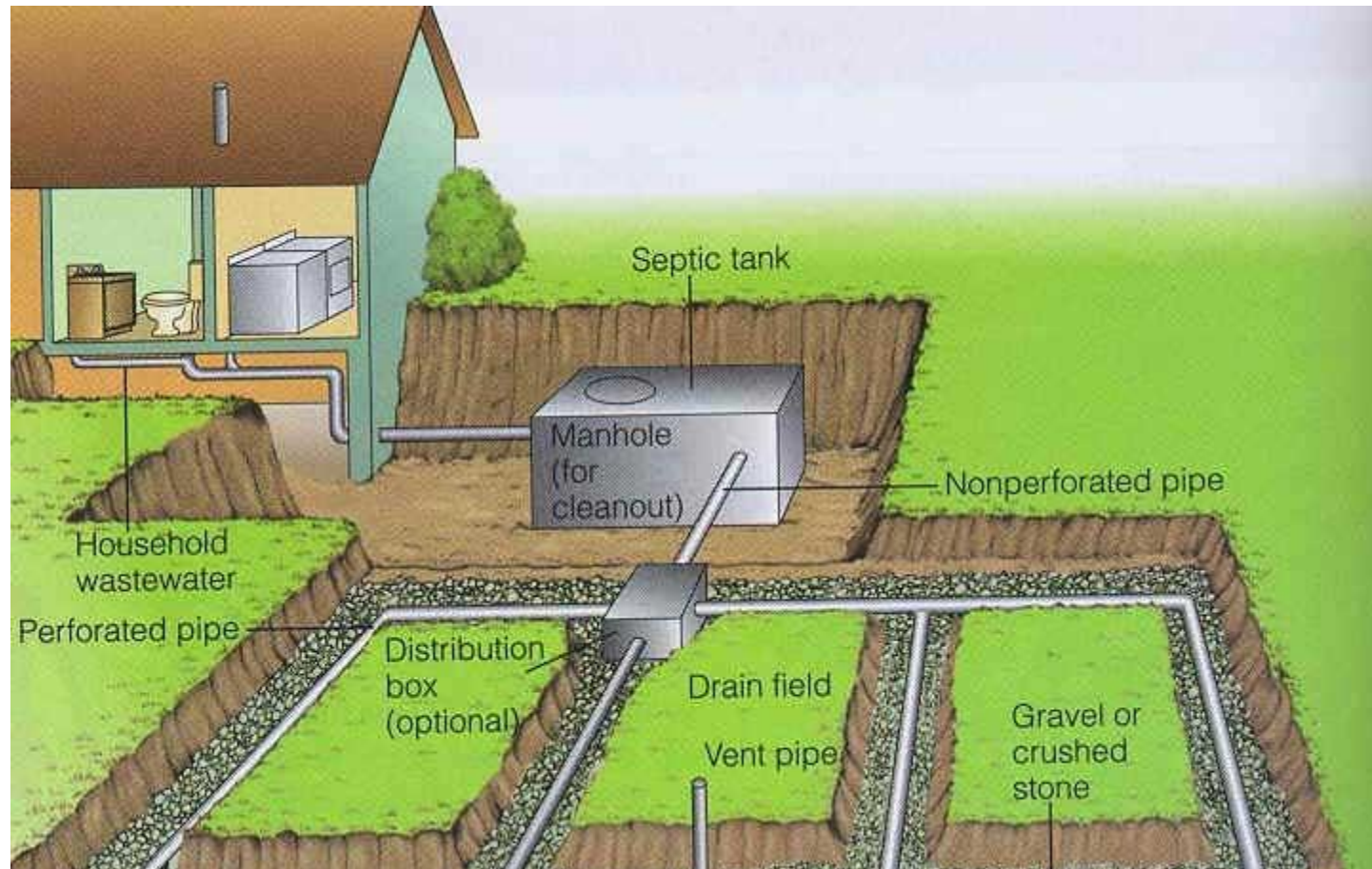




BEHS Program Activities

- Onsite Wastewater
- Food Protection
- Milk & Dairy Products
- Rabies
- Nuclear Response & Emergency Environmental Surveillance
- Emergency Response
- Radon

Onsite Wastewater Program (Septic Tanks)





Onsite Wastewater Management - FY2015

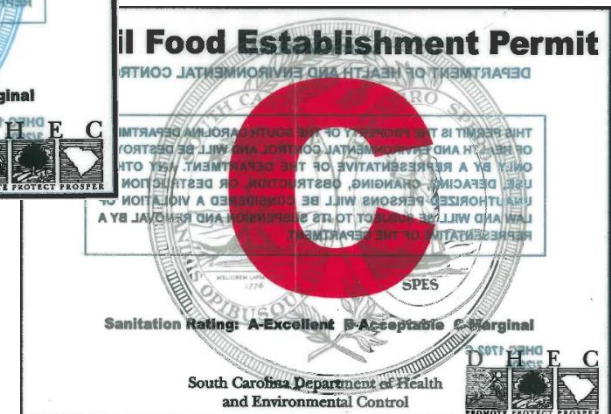
- 9,962 new sites were evaluated for septic tank systems in FY 2015, resulting in 8,496 permits
- 5,076 systems were actually installed by applicants
- 906 licensed septic tank contractors and 276 pumpers and haulers
- 121 approved septic tank manufacturers



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Food Protection Program





Food Protection Program Facilities

- Retail Food Establishments
- Ice Manufacturing Plants
- Soft Drink Bottling Plants
- Manufacturing, Distributing, and the Sale of Frozen Dairy Foods and Frozen Desserts
- Milk and Milk Products
- Imitation Milk, Imitation Milk Products, Products Made in Semblance of Milk and Milk Products



Food Protection Program

- Conducts surveillance and response for foodborne illness outbreaks
- Inspects retail food establishments statewide for uniformity and consistency in applying the regulation
- Permits new retail food establishments
- Provides training on food safety and how to reduce the occurrence of foodborne illness risk factors



Food Protection Program

2015 Numbers

21,776	Routine Inspections
9,400	Follow-Ups
4,006	Total Complaints
747	Foodborne Illness Complaints
15	Foodborne Outbreaks
2,686	Permits



Vital Records

Public Health

Environment

Food Safety

Permits & Compliance

SC Food Grades

Use our search tool, below, to find recent sanitation/food safety scores for nearly 17,000 restaurants, delis, school cafeterias, grocery stores, retail meat markets, bakeries and seafood markets in South Carolina. Each score is a snapshot in time of an establishment's practices and cleanliness during a recent DHEC inspection; it may not represent how an establishment always operates. Scores listed are for both unannounced routine "R" and follow-up "F" compliance inspections.

What Ratings Means



Grade A - The food service establishment earned 88-100 points. Its sanitation and food safety practices scored appeared to be in the 'acceptable to very good' range during DHEC's unannounced routine inspection.



Grade B - The facility earned from 78-87 points. Its sanitation and food safety practices appeared to be in the 'marginal to acceptable' range during DHEC's unannounced routine inspection.



Grade C - The food service earned from 77-70 points. Its sanitation and food safety practices appeared to be in the 'poor to marginal' range during DHEC's unannounced routine inspection.

All restaurants and food service establishments are required to post their most recent DHEC rating signs at their facility.

Search Tool Tips

When typing in a facility's name, try to use the correct spelling, capitalization and punctuation, if known. For example, if you want information on a local *Applebee's* but type in *Applebee* or *Applebees*, the search may not work.

If you don't know the exact spelling, etc., or you're having trouble finding a listing for a particular food establishment, try these search tips:

- The Facility Name uses partial matching. For example, to search for Waffle House, you could enter "waffle house", "waffle", "house", "ffl", "ouse" and all would find Waffle House. Other facilities with those characters in the name will also show up, such as "Bob's SteakHouse". From this list, you can find a more specific term to use, such as "waffle hou" or for "Bob's SteakHouse", you could use "steakhouse". Case does not matter and characters such as apostrophe, ampersand, parentheses, percent signs and periods will be ignored.
- If that doesn't work, you might also try changing the City Name. Remove the City Name you typed in originally, and replace it with the name of a nearby town or city. For example, if your search for a restaurant in *James Island* doesn't work, type in *Charleston*. The same partial matching applies here like it does to the Facility Name.

Search by: (Required) Facility Name: Facility Type:

Search by: (Required) City Name: AND/OR County:

Search



Vital Records

Public Health

Environment

Food Safety

Permits & Compliance

DHEC > Food Safet... > File A Complaint

File a Food Safety Complaint about a S.C. Food Service

Do you believe food served by a S.C. restaurant or food establishment, or milk, frozen dairy foods, a soft drink or bottled water:

- Caused you or a family member to become sick?
- Was unsanitary, or prepared, handled, stored or produced in an unsafe way?
- Is in some other way endangering public health and safety or violating food safety laws?

If so, you can file a consumer complaint with DHEC by answering the questions below. We also accept complaints by e-mail, phone, fax or regular mail. If you would like for us to contact you after we complete our investigation, make sure to provide your contact information.

[File a food safety complaint involving a hospital, nursing home, treatment center or medical facility in South Carolina.](#)

Online Complaint

To file a complaint about an out-of-state food businesses, please contact the public health department in that state.

What is the nature of your request? *

☐ General Complaint ☐ Report a Possible Illness

Type of establishment: *

☐ Restaurant ☐ Grocery Store ☐ Other

Date/Time of Incident: *

If the request concerns a restaurant or grocery store, please give the name and address of the facility.

Facility Name: *

Facility Address: *

Facility City/Town: *

If you don't have the exact address, please provide clear directions (for example: North, South, East, or West of ...) including cross streets/intersections. *

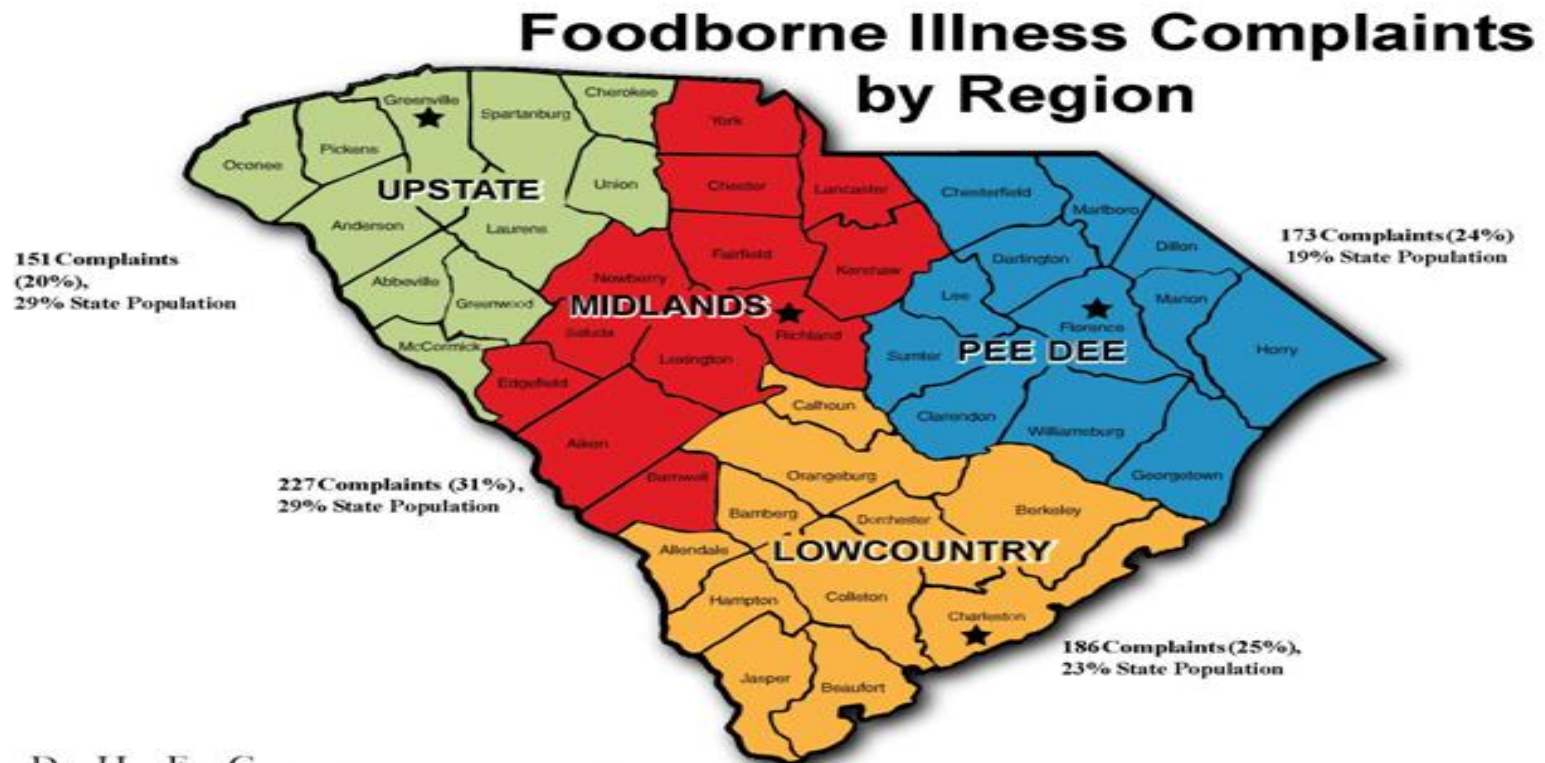
Please provide the details of your request. *



Foodborne Outbreaks

- DHEC follows a nationally recognized foodborne outbreak protocol which includes a partnership of Epidemiology, Laboratory & Environmental Health
- Enteric outbreaks can be caused by food, water, animal contact or by person-to-person contact; good team based investigation is critical
- Since not all enteric outbreaks turn out to be foodborne, each must be investigated to determine cause

2015:Complaints by Region





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Dairy and Manufactured Foods





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Dairy and Manufactured Food Program



- Inspects and samples dairy farms, plants, and distribution centers in accordance with the National Conference on Interstate Milk Shipments
- Milk produced and processed in South Carolina may be placed into interstate commerce
- Inspects bottled water, soft drinks, cheese, frozen desserts and ice plants under contract from the US Food and Drug Administration

Dairy Food and Soft Drink Protection Program

The background of the slide features a photograph of two cows in a green field under a blue sky. One cow is dark brown and the other is white with black spots. They are both looking towards the camera.

Program Inventory	2015
Grade A Dairy Farms	56
Grade A Raw (Human Consumption) Goat Dairies	11
Grade A Raw (Human Consumption) Sheep Dairies	1
Grade A Raw (Human Consumption) Cow Dairies	10
Grade A Milk Pasteurization Plants	8
Frozen Dessert Manufacturers	12
Single-Service Milk Container/Closure Manuf.	8
Milk/Frozen Dessert Distributors	31
Milk Haulers/Samplers	37
Dairy Plant Samplers	28
Milk Tankers	33
Butter Manufacturers	2
Cheese Manufacturers	13



Dairy and Manufactured Food Program

- **12 Soft Drink / Bottled Water Manufacturing Plants**
- **21 Wholesale Packaged Ice Manufacturing Plants**
- **207 Registered Ice Vending Locations**





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Rabies Prevention



Rabies Prevention Program

- Rabies is a viral disease that attacks nerve and brain tissue
- The virus is transmitted from the saliva of a rabid animal to a healthy animal or human through a bite, cut or scratch
- Rabies has a near 100% fatality rate



Rabies Prevention Program

- DHEC conducted 12,801 initial investigations of potential rabies exposure with 12,021 follow-up investigations involving both wild and domesticated animals in 2015
- Tested 1,867 animal heads for rabies in FY 2015: 1,671 tested negative, 130 tested positive and 66 unable to test
- In SC, wild animals account for the highest number of reported cases (raccoons, foxes, skunks, and bats)





Preparedness and Emergency Response Coordination

- Coordinates activities between Environmental Affairs and other DHEC Deputy Areas to address the Agency's preparedness for man-made and natural disasters to include terrorism and weapons of mass destruction incidents
- Coordinates Environmental Affairs' emergency response activities, to include terrorism events, with other State and Federal response/planning agencies

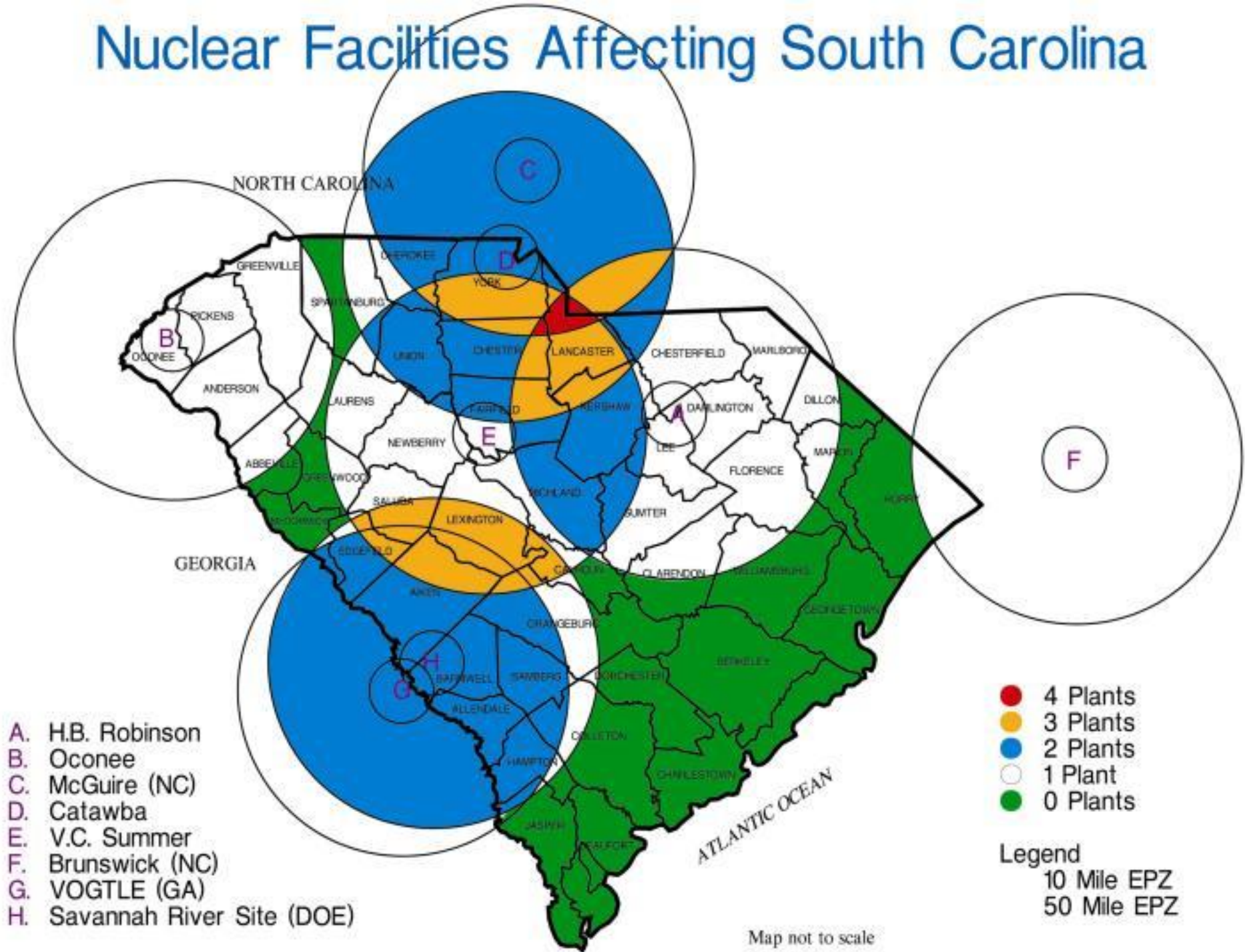


Nuclear Response and Emergency Environmental Surveillance

- Coordinates the State Technical Radiological Response plan with SC Emergency Management Division and provides response teams for all nuclear incidents at:
 - Four SC Commercial Fixed Nuclear Facilities
 - One SC Fuel Fabrication Facility
 - One GA Fixed Nuclear Facility
 - Two NC Fixed Nuclear Facilities
 - The Department of Energy (DOE) - Savannah River Site
 - The Naval Nuclear Training Unit Charleston

- Staff are active members of the security team with SLED on Foreign Spent Nuclear Fuel Shipments and other selected DOE Transportation Campaigns

Nuclear Facilities Affecting South Carolina





Nuclear Response 2015

- Incident notifications: 2
- Courtesy notifications: 7
- Communication drills and nuclear response exercises: 25
- Bureau of Environmental Health Services provides and coordinates technical liaisons to:
 - state and county emergency operations centers
 - joint public information centers
 - the facility emergency operation center
- Train first responders state-wide in basic radiological health physics and emergency response

Emergency Response





Emergency Response

Oil and Chemical Emergency Response:

- Maintains a twenty four (24) hour/seven (7) days a week field response capability to environmental emergencies
- Coordinates the response of DHEC and other agencies in responding to spills and releases of petroleum and hazardous chemicals
- Trains DHEC personnel in response safety, hazards awareness and containment/removal technologies
- Investigates fish kills

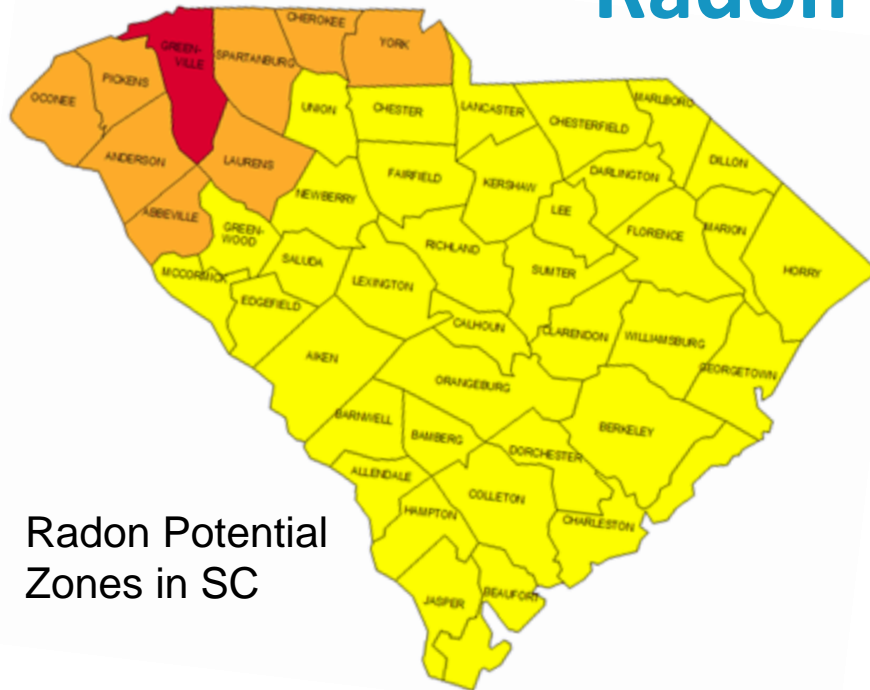


2015 Emergency Response Activities

Oil, HazMat Spills & Fish Kills

Calls to 24 Hour Phone Number	2,863
Oil Spills	613
Hazardous Materials Spills	106
Other Spills	86
Fish Kills	36
Hazardous Materials Exercises	8

Radon Program



Radon Potential
Zones in SC

- Zone 1** counties have a predicted average indoor radon screening level greater than 4 pCi/L (picocuries per liter) (red zones) **Highest Potential**
- Zone 2** counties have a predicted average indoor radon screening level between 2 and 4 pCi/L (orange zones) **Moderate Potential**
- Zone 3** counties have a predicted average indoor radon screening level less than 2 pCi/L (yellow zones) **Low Potential**

- SC's Radon Program's primary objective is to reduce the number of radon-induced lung cancer cases.
- This is an EPA funded outreach program
- Free test kits are provided for citizens (1362 radon kits requested)
- Analysis is done by commercial lab or the DHEC environmental labs
- The only way to determine radon levels is to test



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Environmental Labs





Environmental Laboratories

- Conducts monitoring, sample analysis, data management
- Provides validated data meeting quality control requirements for environmental decision-making to DHEC, EPA & public
- Certifies public & private environmental laboratories (drinking water & wastewater plants, industries & commercial laboratories)
- Responsible for DHEC's Quality Management Program



Analytical & Radiological Environmental Services

- Microbiological and chemical analysis of drinking water, wastewater, streams, lakes, ocean water, soil, fish, leachate, chemical waste, shellfish, milk, and other dairy products
- In 2015, performed 143,409 analyses on 18,554 samples
- Provides data to the public, EPA and Environmental Affairs programs
- Provides technical support to DHEC staff



Analytical & Radiological Environmental Services (cont'd.)

- Analyzes samples of drinking water, surface water, air, milk, fish, vegetation, and soils around nuclear facilities to throughout the state
- Maintains a mobile rad lab for radiological emergencies or special investigations
- In 2015, performed 70,728 radiological analyses on 2814 samples



Air Quality Analysis

- Monitors SC ambient (outdoor) air through a network of 32 monitoring stations across the state
- Monitors for particulate concentrations like dust & haze, and gaseous pollutants including ozone and air toxics
- Annually:
 - Over 350,000 hourly measurements for criteria pollutants & precursors
 - Over 3,600 samples for criteria pollutants
 - Analysis for more than 10,000 measurements in 1,300 air toxics samples





Environmental Laboratory Certification

- Certifies approximately 532 public and private laboratories, in and out-of-state
- Evaluates in-state labs on a three year cycle including on-site visits
- Determines adherence to federally approved methodology, quality control protocols, record keeping, and reporting practices
- Provides technical support to certified laboratories & environmental programs on analytical methods and data reporting



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